

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RABAT 04333 052030Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /043 W  
-----122455 052033Z /72

P R 051737Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2761  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 4333

AMMAN PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

USIA FOR INA, IOR, IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SIPN - MO  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS, AUG. 5

SUMMARY: LITTLE OPTIMISM AFTER ASSAD'S REJECTION OF WORKING  
GROUP PROPOSAL. PLO POSITION CONTINUES TO MAKE HEADLINES.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ALL PAPERS REPRODUCE PESSIMISTIC WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND  
COMMENTS FROM SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB PAPERS FOLLOWING VANCE-ASSAD  
MEETING AND SYRIAN REJECTION OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. ON  
GOVERNMENT SIDE, "AL MITHAQ AL WATANI" SAYS THAT SADAT'S  
ANNOUNCEMENT CREATED AN "ENTANGLEMENT" AND THE ISRAELIS ARE TAKING  
COMFORT FROM THE PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH "WILL ENABLE THEM  
TO LET THINGS DRAG ON EVEN LONGER." "U.S. LEADERS HAVE NO DOUBT,"  
PAPER CONCLUDES, "THAT IF THEIR INITIATIVE FAILS, IT WILL LEAD TO A  
WEAKENING OF THEIR POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST... AND EVEN ENDANGER  
THEIR ACCESS TO ARAB OIL." "MAROC SOIR" REPRINTS FULL AFP REPORTS  
ON DAMASCUS TALKS UNDER FIVE-COLUMN HEAD "SYRIA REFUSES TO  
PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUP."

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PAGE 02 RABAT 04333 052030Z

2. IN OPPOSITION PRESS, ISTIALAL'S "L'OPINION" HEADLINES PLO  
REACTION TO WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL AND, OBSERVING THAT PLO WOULD BE  
EXCLUDED, SAYS "PLO PARTICIPATION IN EVERY STAGE OF ARAB-ISRAELI  
NEGOCIATIONS REMAINS THE MAIN OBSTACLE." "AL ALAM," ALSO  
ISTIQLAL, FLATLY CALLS VANCE-SADAT MEETINGS "A FAILUREMZ SAME  
ARTICLE, COMMENTING ON UPCOMING MEETINGS IN AMMAN, CALLS HUSSEIN

"A REACTIONARY" AND TAKES ISSUE WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT "JORDANIANS AND PALESTINIANS ARE ONE PEOPLE." "AL ALAM" ALSO REPRINT USIS-PROVIDED TEXT OF CARTER "TIME" INTERVIEW, UNDER HEADLINE "CARTER EXPLAINS SLIM U.S. HOPES." SOCIALIST "MUHARRIR" REPEATS YESTERDAY'S OBSERVATION THAT DAMASCUS IS VANCE'S MOST DIFFICULT STOP, SAYS "THERE ARE GREAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SYRIAN POSITIONS... AND CHANGE IS IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS THE U.S. DOES NOT PRESSURE ISRAEL TO RESPECT UN RESOLUTIONS." IN COMMUNIST "AL BAYANE" EDITORIALIST ABU AHMED FINDS THAT AMERICAN OPTIMISM FOLLOWING THE SADAT MEETINGS WAS "RESTRAINED" IN COMPARISON TO EGYPTIAN "EUPHORIA," AND THAT THIS EUPHORIA MAY PROVE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO VANCE

.  
IN ANY CASE, THE EDITORIALIST SAYS, THE WORKING GROUP IDEA WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE START BY EXCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS.  
MOFFAT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS, AUG. 5 SUMMARY: LITTLE OPTIMISM AFTER ASSAD'S REJECTION OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. PLO POSITION CONTI NUES TO MAKE HEA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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